



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of February 6, 2022

Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.

Sermon Text

Luke 7:1-10

After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. 2 Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. 3 When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. 4 And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, 5 for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue." 6 And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. 7 Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. 8 For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." 9 When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." 10 And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.

If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiiikaichurch.org/sermononline>

Summary

When a Roman centurion's servant falls ill and is about to die, the Jewish elders plead with Jesus to heal him. In the mind of the Jews, this particular Roman was worthy because of his good deeds towards God's people. The centurion, however, knew otherwise. He understood very clearly that he was unworthy. At the same time, as a Roman soldier, he was very familiar with what real authority and power could do. Thus in an act of humble faith that caused even Jesus to marvel, the centurion asks Jesus to simply say the word and his servant would be healed.

Discussion Questions

1. Think about the reasons why the Jews earnestly plead with Jesus on behalf of the centurion to heal his servant. What does this tell you about how the Jews judged a person's "worthiness"? In spite of his good deeds, do you think the centurion was worthy of God's blessing? Why or why not?
2. Why are human beings so prone towards a works based relationship with deity; i.e. a mentality that thinks God "owes us" for our good deeds and inherent worthiness? How can this kind of thinking be destructive and ultimately damning? In what ways in your past, have you fallen into this kind of thinking?
3. Why might a Roman centurion have a better vantage point to understand Jesus' authority than, say, a Jewish fisherman or religious leader? What did the centurion need to believe about Jesus in order to come to his conclusions about Jesus' authority? What insight does this give you about the kind of faith that Jesus marvels at?
4. How does a centurion-like faith help a person to overcome ongoing habitual sin? How does this kind of faith make a person both humble and bold?